

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Six Essential Elements of Geography

The Merriam-Webster dictionary describes geography as “a science that deals with the description, distribution, and interaction of the diverse physical, biological, and cultural features of the earth's surface. Simply put, we will learn about the features of the earth and how living things interact and change the earth. Scholars have divided the study of geography into six parts called “The Six Essential Elements of Geography.” A geographically informed person knows:

1. The World in Spatial Terms

- How to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective
- How to use mental maps to organize information about people, places, and environments in a spatial context
- How to analyze the spatial organization of people, places, and environments on the earth's surface

2. Places and Regions

- The physical and human characteristics of places
- That people create regions to interpret earth's complexity
- How culture and experience influence people's perceptions of places and regions

3. Physical Systems

- The physical processes that shape the patterns of earth's surface
- The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on earth's surface

4. Human Systems

- The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on earth's surface
- The characteristics, distribution, and complexity of earth's cultural mosaics
- The patterns and networks of economic interdependence on earth's surface
- The processes, patterns, and functions of human settlement
- How the forces of cooperation and conflict among people influence the division and control of earth's surface

5. Environment and Society

- How human actions modify the physical environment
- How physical systems affect human systems
- The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources

6. The Uses of Geography

- How to apply geography to interpret the past
- How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future

Fill in the Blanks

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

Geography can be described as the s_i_n_e that deals with the d_s_r_p_i_n, distribution, and i_t_r_c_i_n of the diverse p_y_i_a_l, biological, and c_l_u_a_l features of the earth's surface. A geographically informed person knows the S_ E_ of G_:

- (1) understanding the w_ in s_ terms;
- (2) understanding p_ and r_;
- (3) understanding the p_ systems and e_o_y_t_ms;
- (4) understanding h_m_n systems—the people and cultures of the world and how we interact;
- (5) understanding e_v_r_n_e_t and s_c_e_y, how we change the e_v_r_n_e_t and how the e_v_r_n_e_t changes us.
- (6) understanding the u_ of g_o_r_p_y to i_t_r_r_t the past and plan for the f_t_re.

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.